

no doubt, this species which Schomburgk mentions in his list of Guiana birds ('Reise in Guiana,' iii. p. 707).

AMAZILIA CUPREICAUDA.

Capite summo et corpore toto subtus splendide virescentibus, dorso cupreo tincto, tectricibus supracaudalibus et cauda saturate cinnamomeis cupreo lavatis, plaga hypochondriaca et tibiis niveis, crisso pure cinnamomeo immaculato; rostri maxilla fusca, mandibulæ bitriente basali pallida: long. tota 3·5, alæ 2·0, caudæ 1·15, rostri a rictu 0·8.

♀ mari similis, coloribus minus vividis.

Hab. in monte "Roraima" dicto, Guiana Brit.

Mus. nostr.

Obs. *A. viridiventri* similis, sed cauda cupreo-cinnamomea nec violacea, crisso cinnamomeo, cauda minus furcata &c. distinguenda.

This species, of which Mr. Whitely obtained a good series of examples, seems certainly distinct from *A. viridiventris* of Colombia, and the characters pointed out above seem to stand with great certainty. In Venezuela there is also a species of this genus, which is also allied to *A. viridiventris*, and of which we have one indifferent specimen. Whether it is really to be distinguished from the bird we now describe remains to be determined on receipt of more examples in better condition. Anyhow, we are not aware that the Venezuelan bird has a name strictly applicable to it.

XLVII.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

(Continued from p. 348.)

71. 'The Auk.'

['The Auk,' a Quarterly Journal of Ornithology. Continuation of the 'Bulletin of the Nuttall Ornithological Club.' Vol. I. Nos. 2 & 3, April and July 1884. Boston, Mass.]

Besides receiving the numbers of 'The Auk' complete, we have been favoured with separate copies of several of the articles by Mr. Lawrence and Mr. Stejneger. To give an

abstract of the contents of these two very interesting numbers is, we think, not necessary. Readers of 'The Ibis' must read 'The Auk' also. But we will offer a few remarks on one or two points.

We must confess that Mr. Stejneger makes an effective reply (p. 118) to our argument (Ibis, 1883, p. 116) about *Plectrophanes*, which term, it must be conceded, is strictly a mere equivalent of *Calcarius*. We had not noticed that Meyer, when he first instituted *Plectrophanes*, in 1815, continued to place the Snow-Bunting under *Emberiza*. The "strictly correct" generic term for the Snow-Bunting is consequently *Plectrophenax*. But must we always do what is "strictly correct"? Our sense revolts against the wholesale changes of familiar names which Mr. Stejneger seems to take a special delight in bringing forward.

Mr. Lawrence describes (p. 180) a new Pigeon from the island of Granada, N.S., as *Engyptila wellsi*.

In No. 3 Mr. Stejneger describes a new Gull, *Larus schistisagus* [? *L. affinis*], from the Commander Islands (p. 231); and Mr. Henshaw another new Gull, *L. nelsoni*, from Alaska.

72. R. Blasius on the Ornithological Congress at Vienna.

[Erster internationaler Ornithologen-Congress in Wien. Von Dr. R. Blasius. Monats. d. deutsch. Vereins zum Schutze d. Vogelwelt, 1884, No. 5.]

Dr. R. Blasius gives an account of the Ornithological Congress at Vienna in April last, which seems to have been attended by representatives of almost all civilized countries except England and America. The President was the Marquis v. Bellegarde, the Vice-President Dr. Gustav Radde of Tiflis. Three Sections were formed:—(1) For the consideration of an International Law for the Preservation of Birds; (2) For the question of the Origin of the Domestic Fowl; (3) For the establishment of Stations for the Observation of Birds over the whole world. The proceedings of each Section are shortly given.

73. *W. Blasius's second Paper on the Great Auk.*

[Zur Geschichte der Ueberreste von *Alca impennis*, Linn. Von Prof. Dr. Wilh. Blasius. J. f. O. 1884, p. 58.]

We noticed Prof. Blasius's first paper on this subject in our April number (p. 204). In this second contribution he gives further details respecting this interesting extinct species, and increases the number of specimens known to exist from 74 to 76.

74. *Cope on the Zoological Position of Texas.*

[On the Zoological Position of Texas. By Edward D. Cope. Bull. U.S. Nat. Mus., No. 17.]

Mr. Cope discusses Texas with regard to the question of the point of junction of the Nearctic and Neotropical faunas. As we all know, the tableland of Mexico is populated by an animal life which belongs to the north and differs essentially from that of the coast-region on each side. The genera of South America terminate their range at various points along the coast-region, but on the Atlantic slope "enough of them remain at Matamoras, at the mouth of the Rio Grande, to show that that point is not far from the northern boundary of the Neotropical Realm." On the other hand, various northern genera run south over the tableland as far as the City of Mexico.

Mr. Cope discusses only the Mammals, Reptiles, and Batrachians of Texas; but his essay should not the less be read by ornithologists. His conclusion is that Texas must be placed within the Nearctic Region, a result with which we believe students of its avifauna will also agree.

75. *Coues and Prentiss on the Avifauna of Columbia.*

[Avifauna Columbiana; being a List of Birds ascertained to inhabit the district of Columbia, with the times of arrival and departure of such as are non-residents, and brief notices of habits &c. Second Edition. By Elliott Coues, M.D., Ph.D., and D. Webster Prentiss, A.M., M.D. Bull. U.S. Nat. Mus., No. 26, 1883.]

The title of this list fully explains its contents. The

species as yet recognized as occurring within the district of Columbia are 248 in number, of which, as shown in the "Recapitulation," 47 are "permanent residents," 46 "winter visitants," 66 "summer visitants," 49 "spring and autumn migrants," and 40 "accidental or very rare visitors." The game-laws of the district are subjoined. The chapter on the Location and Topography of the District of Columbia contains an account of "Rail-shooting on the Anaconda-River marshes," which, though not strictly scientific, will interest many of our readers.

76. Dalglish on Birds and Eggs from Central Uruguay.

[Notes on a Second Collection of Birds and Eggs from Central Uruguay. By John J. Dalglish. Proc. Roy. Phys. Soc. Edinb. vol. viii. p. 77.]

Mr. Dalglish's correspondent in the Banda Oriental continues his interesting field-notes on the birds of Central Uruguay, and their nests and eggs. Fifteen species are included in the present contribution.

77. Finsch on Birds from the South Pacific.

[Ueber Vögel der Südsee. Auf Grund eigener Beobachtungen und Sammlungen mitgetheilt von Dr. O. Finsch, Ehrenmitglied des Ornith. Vereines in Wien. Wien: 1884. 56 pp.]

The object of this essay was, we believe, to give an account of the collection of birds obtained by the author during his travels in the Pacific, and exhibited at the recent Ornithological Congress at Vienna. The collection is divided into five categories:—(1) New Britain, (2) New Guinea, (3) Cape York and Torres Straits, (4) New Zealand, and (5) Micronesia. General remarks are prefaced about the five different localities, and special notes appended to the name of each species.

78. Giraldes on the Birds of Portugal.

[Questões de Philosophia Natural por Albino Giraldes.—III. Catalogo das Aves de Portugal existentes actualmente no museu de Coimbra, 1878. 8vo. Coimbra: 1879.]

The species enumerated amount to 205, most of them known to occur in other portions of the Iberian Peninsula. Provided the identifications are correct, the most interesting for distribution are *Picus medius* and *Loxia pityopsittacus*, the latter new to the Peninsula. About 40 species which may be expected to be found in Portugal are as yet unrepresented in the Coimbra Museum.

79. *Gurney's List of the Diurnal Birds of Prey.*

[A List of the Diurnal Birds of Prey, with references and annotations; also a record of specimens preserved in the Norfolk and Norwich Museum. By John Henry Gurney. 8vo. London: 1884.]

This list was originally intended to serve as an Index to Mr. Gurney's series of critical articles which have appeared in this Journal on Mr. Sharpe's 'Catalogue of the Diurnal Birds of Prey.' With this the author subsequently determined to combine a list of all the species and subspecies of Birds of Prey known to him, and to add a few of the most necessary references, together with a statement of the number of specimens of each species in the Norwich Museum. This rich collection, Mr. Gurney tells us, contains 2895 specimens representing 383 species and subspecies of Accipitres, and 1009 specimens representing 171 species of Striges.

To his most useful list Mr. Gurney adds a series of 15 appendices (A to O), containing essays on various moot points in the history of the Accipitres. In one of these a new Kestrel (*Tinnunculus arthuri*) from Mombasa is described for the first time.

80. *Harvie-Brown on Records of Migration.*

[On the Occurrence of the Little Gull (*Larus minutus*) in the Island of North Uist; with Remarks on the Objects of the International Ornithologists' Congress at Vienna, and on Uniformity of Method in recording Rare Species in future. By John A. Harvie-Brown. Proc. Roy. Phys. Soc. Edinb. vol. viii. p. 105.

Method in recording Observations. By John A. Harvie-Brown. Zool. 1884, p. 60.]

In our last number (p. 349) we printed a letter from our

esteemed fellow-worker bearing upon a concise and simple method of recording ornithological observations, his text being then the occurrence of the Black Redstart (*Ruticilla titys*) at Pentland Skerries. In the present papers he has selected as his theme the Little Gull (*Larus minutus*), which has been killed in North Uist—apparently the most westerly locality as yet recorded in Europe.

81. Martorelli on the Fauna of Sardinia.

[Osservazioni sui Mammiferi ed Uccelli fatte in Sardegna dal Dott. Giacinto Martorelli. Small folio. Pistoia: 1884.]

In this useful addition to our knowledge of the Birds of the island of Sardinia we have a coloured illustration of an immature example of a Falcon which has been pronounced by Mr. J. H. Gurney to be *Falco punicus* (cf. Salvadori, *infra*, p. 462). There is also a coloured plate of a prettily placed nest of the Grey Flycatcher (*Butalis grisola*), overhung with the maidenhair fern, and an outline illustration of heads and feet of various groups. We cannot always agree with the learned Doctor in the orthography of his scientific names, such as *Haegilites* for *Ægialitis*.

82. Menzbier on the Avifauna of Central Russia.

[Revue Comparative de la Faune Ornithologique des Gouvernements de Moscou et de Toula. Par Michel Menzbier. Bull. Soc. Imp. Nat. Moscou, lvi. pp. 202–219, lviii. pp. 109–144.]

The writer, who had already published (Bull. Soc. Imp. Nat. Moscou, 1879) a paper on the Birds of the Government of Toula, which is situated nearly due south of that of Moscow, now gives a columnar list of the 266 species found in both these districts. This is followed by a catalogue of 259 species obtained between the Volga and the Oka, with very interesting remarks upon their geographical distribution.

83. Menzbier on the Extinction of Species through Crossing.

[Conférences de la Société zoologique de France.—Rôle du Croisement dans l'extinction des Espèces. Par M. Michel Menzbier. Revue Scient. sér. 3, 1884, p. 513.]

The study of the group of Blue Tits led the author to the conclusion that *Cyanistes pleskei* and *C. flavipectus* are old forms, which are being bred-out by crossing with *C. cyanus* and the intermediate forms; and he goes on to consider the question with relation to *Corvus corone* and *C. cornix*, *Buteo vulgaris* of Western and *B. vulpinus* of Eastern Europe, *Falco eleonore* and *F. arcadicus*, the members of the genus *Cyanecula*, the Nuthatches, and many other birds belonging to the above and other families. The three ways in which these crossings influence the colour of the plumage is only briefly touched upon, and this subject is reserved for future investigation.

81. Meyer on Birds, Nests, and Eggs from the East Indies.

[Ueber neue und ungenügend bekannte Vögel, Nester und Eier aus dem Ostindischen Archipel im königl. zoologischen Museum zu Dresden. Dem I. internationalen Ornithologen-Congress in Wien (7-14 April, 1884) gewidmet von A. B. Meyer. Sitzungs- u. Abhandl. d. Gesell. Isis, Dresden, 1884, Abhand. i.]

This is an important memoir. After an introduction, in which he speaks of the birds of the Sangi Islands (68 species known, of which 20 are peculiar) and of the little-known islands of Kisser, Letti, Dammar, Wetter, Babbar, as well as of additional species from the Timor-Laut group, Buru, and Sumatra, Dr. Meyer treats of 153 species of birds in the Dresden Museum in systematic order. Amongst these the following new species and subspecies are described, and others doubtfully new are mentioned besides:—

Urospizias approximans halmaheræ, ex Halmahera.

Spilornis asturinus, ex loc. ign.

Geoffroyus timorlaoensis, ex ins. Tenimber.

Trichoglossus meyeri bonthainensis, ex Celebes.

Merops ornatus sumbaensis, ex Sumba.

Caprimulgus faberi, ex Sumatra.

Monarcha inornatus kisserensis, ex Kisser.

M. geelvinkianus, ex Mysore et Jobi.

M. fuscescens, ex Jamna (ins. Papuana).

M. pileatus buruensis, ex Buru.
Pœcilodryas minor, ex Nov. Guinea et Salawatti.
Gerygone fulvescens, ex Babbar.
Graculus lettiensis, ex Letti.
Lalage riedelii, ex Kisser.
L. timoriensis celebensis, ex Celebes.
Artamus musschenbroeki, ex inss. Tenimber.
Rhectes rubiensis, ex Nov. Guinea.
Pachycephala kebirensis, ex Babbar.
P. riedelii, ex Timor-Laut.
P. sharpei, ex Babbar.
Dicæum salvadorii, ex Babbar.
Philemon kisserensis, ex Kisser.
P. timorlaoensis, ex Timor-Laut.
Calornis circumscripta, ex Timor-Laut.
Ptilopus flavo-virescens, ex Timor-Laut.
Carpophaga pinon rubiensis, ex Nov. Guinea.

Many important remarks are given on other species. The occurrence of a Penguin (*Eudyptes chrysocome*) on the coast of Java, near Batavia, is recorded. As regards Dr. Meyer's supposed new species from Timor-Laut, Mr. H. O. Forbes's remarks (P. Z. S. 1884, p. 425) should be consulted.

85. *Oustalet on the Collections of M. E. Chantre.*

[Note sur les Collections rapportées par M. E. Chantre de son Voyage dans le Caucase et en Orient. Par M. E. Oustalet. Ann. Sc. Nat., Zool. xiii. Art. no. 7.]

M. Chantre's collection of 200 birds, referable to 90 species, was made in the Caucasus and in other parts of Western Asia. A list of the localities of 56 species of the latter category is given. Notes are added on the species of *Caccabis*, on *Ibis comata*, and on the Darter of Antioch, which M. Oustalet considers a new species (*Plotus chantrei*), more nearly allied to *P. melanogaster* than to *P. levaillanti*. Canon Tristram has referred this bird to *P. levaillanti* (P. Z. S. 1881, p. 826, and 'Fauna and Flora of Palestine,' p. 108, pl. xiii.).

86. *Oustalet on the Architecture of Birds.*

[L'Architecture des Oiseaux. Conférence faite à la Sorbonne, le 10 Mars 1883, par M. E. Oustalet. Extr. Bull. Assoc. Scient. France, Nos. 159-162. 42 pp.]

An essay on the always interesting subject of Birds' nests and nesting-habits, which we commend to our readers' attention.

87. *Oustalet on Birds from New Guinea.*

[Note sur quelques Oiseaux de la Nouvelle-Guinée. Par M. E. Oustalet. Ann. Sc. Nat., Zool. sér. 6, xiii.]

M. Oustalet describes the adult male plumage of his *Cyclopsittacus salvadorii* (Bull. Assoc. Sc. France, sér. 2, i. no. 11) from the N.E. coast of New Guinea, and speaks also of his *Drepanornis bruijnii*.

88-95. *Ridgway on American Birds.*

[88. Descriptions of some new North-American Birds. Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. ii. p. 89.

89. Description of a new American Kingfisher. *Tom. cit.* p. 95.

90. Note on *Psaltriparus grindæ*, Belding. *Tom. cit.* p. 96.

91. Note on the Generic Name *Calodromas*. *Tom. cit.* p. 97.

92. A Review of the American Crossbills (*Loxia*) of the *L. curvirostra* type. *Tom. cit.* p. 101.

93. Note on the *Anas hyperboreus*, Pall., and *Anser albatrus*, Cassin. *Tom. cit.* p. 107.

94. Remarks on the Type Specimens of *Muscicapa fulvifrons*, Giraud, and *Mitrephorus pallescens*, Coues. *Tom. cit.* p. 108.

95. Note regarding the earliest Name for *Carpodacus hamorrhous* (Wagler). *Tom. cit.* p. 110.]

In No. 88 the new subspecies described are :—*Parus atricapillus turneri*, from Alaska; *Psaltriparus minimus californicus*, from California; *Colaptes mexicanus saturator*, from Washington Territory; *Myiarchus mexicanus magister*, from Western Mexico; *M. lawrencii olivascens*, from Tehuantepec; *Pediæcetes phasianellus campestris*, from Montana and States east of the Rocky Mountains; *Lophortyx californicus brunescens*, from Northern California; and *Phalacrocorax dilophus albociliatus*, from the South-Pacific coast

of the United States. In No. 89 Mr. Ridgway separates *Ceryle superciliosa strictoptera*, from Yucatan, as a new subspecies; in No. 90 he corrects his description of *Psaltiriparus grinda* (Pr. U.S. Nat. Mus. vi. p. 155) as compared with *P. melanotus*. In No. 91 it is proposed to change the generic term *Calodromas* (which has been previously used in Colcoptera) to *Calopezus*. In paper 92 a new subspecies from the western mountain-ranges of the U.S., in winter not uncommon in the eastern U.S., is described as *Loxia curvirostra bendirei*. Remarks are given on the other subspecies of the same group, amongst which is included *L. pityopsittacus*! But how can *L. pityopsittacus* be a subspecies, not having a distinct geographical distribution? In No. 93 Mr. Ridgway shows that *Anser albatus* of Cassin = *A. hyperboreus*, Pallas, and proposes to call the larger race (which Cassin mistook for the true *A. hyperboreus*) *Chen* (or *Anser*) *hyperboreus nivalis* (Forst.), it being apparently *Anas nivalis* of Forster. In No. 94 Mr. Ridgway considers the two birds named in the title and *Empidonax rubicundus*, Cab., to be three geographical races, of which *E. pallescens* is from the western and *E. fulvifrons* from the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains, while *E. rubicundus* is from Southern Mexico. In No. 95 D'Aubenton's Pl. Enl. 386. fig. 1 is stated to represent the Mexican House-Finch (*Carpodacus hæmorrhous*), which should therefore be called *C. mexicanus*, being the *Fringilla mexicana*, Müller, and *Emberiza mexicana*, Bodd.

96. *Salvadori's List of his Works.*

[Elenco degli Scritti di Tommaso Salvadori. 1863-1884.]

The original contributions and works of our valued Foreign Member during the last twenty-one years are nearly 150 in number; and to these may be added four important translations of such authors as Van der Hoeven, Pokorny, A. E. Brehm, and Paul Bert.

97. *Salvadori on a Falcon new to Italy.*

[Intorno ad una Specie di Falco nuova per la Fauna Italiana, Nota
SER. V.—VOL. II.

di Tommaso Salvadori. Atti d. R. Accad. d. Scienze d. Torino. Vol. xix. p. 343.]

This Falcon is the bird figured by Dr. Martorelli, shot near Sassari, Sardinia, in June 1883. It was sent to Mr. J. H. Gurney for his opinion, and was pronounced to be *Falco punicus*, Levaillant. Dr. Salvadori discusses the intricate question of the synonymy of this species, so frequently confounded with its congeners.

98. *Saunders's Edition of Yarrell's 'Birds.'*

[A History of British Birds. By the late William Yarrell, V.P.L.S., F.Z.S. Fourth Edition. Revised to the end of the Second Volume by Alfred Newton, M.A., F.R.S.; continued by Howard Saunders, F.L.S., F.Z.S. Parts XXI.-XXV. January-September, 1884.]

Part XXI. contains the remainder of the Limicolæ and some of the Gavie, and Pts. XXII. and XXIII. the rest of the latter family, concluding Vol. III. In deference to the sequence observed in former Editions, and to existing prejudices, Pt. XXIV. opens with the Petrels, followed by some of the Alcidæ, and Pt. XXV. ends with the Steganopodes, leaving only the Herodiones and the Anatidæ to complete the work.

99. *Seebohm's 'British Birds and their Eggs.'*

[A History of British Birds, with Coloured Illustrations of their Eggs. By Henry Seebohm. Parts II.-IV. Royal 8vo. London: 1883-84.]

Mr. Seebohm's fourth part, which was issued in July last, completes the second volume of his 'History of British Birds and their Eggs,' a work which it is not necessary for us to commend to ornithologists. In spite of what we must venture to call some eccentricities, Mr. Seebohm's book is full of interest. Some of the information conveyed has, perhaps, the charm of novelty; *e. g.*, that the Common Partridge has, in the eastern counties of England, "been partially exterminated by the Red-legged Partridge, but still occurs locally in these counties." Later on we are told that in the eastern counties

the Red-legged Partridge "has more or less succeeded in driving out the resident species." But, speaking generally, Mr. Seebohm's large experience in the field entitles him to a respectful hearing, and will secure his book a very large circulation amongst the students of the British Avifauna.

100. *Selys-Longchamps on the Tits* (Parinæ).

[Considérations sur le Genre Mésange (*Parus*). Par M. Edm. de Selys-Longchamps. Bull. Soc. Zool. de France, 1884, p. 32.]

In this important monographical notice of the Parinæ, the author has given a synopsis of the species, subspecies, and races which compose the group, pointing out with admirable clearness the salient features of each. This key has been translated by Canon Tristram, and will be found on p. 395 of the present volume of 'The Ibis.'

101. *Sharpe's 'Birds of South Africa.'*

[The Birds of South Africa. By E. L. Layard, F.Z.S. New edition, thoroughly revised and augmented, by R. Bowdler Sharpe, F.L.S., F.Z.S. Part VI. London: Quaritch, April 1884.]

We heartily congratulate Mr. Sharpe upon the issue of the final number of his New Edition of the 'Birds of South Africa.' As completed the work forms a portly volume of 890 pages and twelve coloured plates, and forms a most acceptable Hand-book for the student of South-African Ornithology. The species included in the area treated of, which extends on the east as far north as Zambesi, and to the Quanza River on the west, are 812 in number.

102. *Taczanowski's Ornithology of Peru.*

[Ornithologie du Pérou. Par Ladislas Taczanowski. Tome i. Royal 8vo. Rennes: 1884. 542 pp.]

We are much pleased to receive the first portion of this laborious undertaking. It commences by a dedication to Count Constantin Branicki, by whose liberal assistance two well-known travellers have amassed the vast material upon

which the work is based. A very interesting introduction by one of these travellers (Mr. Stolzmann) gives us an instructive general account of the physical divisions of the Peruvian Republic, and enumerates some of the special ornithic forms by which they are characterized. The systematic portion of the work commences with the Birds of Prey, and, besides the Caprimulgidæ, Trochilidæ, and Cypselidæ, treats of various families of Passeres. Altogether 332 species are spoken of, but M. Taczanowski tells us that *more than* 1000 Peruvian species are represented by specimens in the Warsaw Museum. *Lurocalis rufiventris* is described as new.

M. Taczanowski will excuse us if we remark that, although a very extensive synonymy is not necessary, references should be given to *all species* based upon specimens obtained by his great collectors Jelski and Stolzmann, even when, as is the case with *Dacnis modesta* and *Dacnis xanthophthalma*, they may have been founded on female specimens. We trust, also, that a map will ultimately be given with *all* the collectors' localities plainly marked.

103. *Tristram's Fauna and Flora of Palestine.*

[The Survey of Western Palestine.—The Fauna and Flora of Palestine. By H. B. Tristram, LL.D., D.D., F.R.S. Published by the Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund. 4to. London, 1884.]

With great pleasure we have received a copy of this long-expected work, which, however, it is only right to say, has been delayed from causes quite beyond the author's control. The 'Fauna and Flora of Palestine' has now been issued by the Committee of the Palestine Exploration Fund, and forms a volume of their Survey.

The Birds of Palestine, according to Canon Tristram, consist of 348 species. Each of these is named, and one or two references are added. A short account of its occurrence in Palestine is then given, as also a few notes on its general range. The Dipper of Lebanon is now, we believe for the first time, elevated to the rank of a species as *Cinclus rufiventris* (p. 51).

The following species are well figured :—

• Erithacus gutturalis.	Petronia brachydactyla.
Cinnyris osea.	Amydrus tristrami.
Serinus canonicus.	Caprimulgus tamaricis.
Passer moabiticus.	Plotus levaillantii.

XLVIII.—Letters, Announcements, &c.

We have received the following letters addressed to the Editors of 'The Ibis:'—

Northrepps Hall, Norwich,
June 30th, 1884.

SIRS,—I beg to subjoin an extract from a letter addressed to me, under date of 12th May last, by Mr. K. H. Bennett, of Ivanhoe, New South Wales. The information it contains relative to the habits of two of the scarcest Australian Birds of Prey will, I think, be of interest to the readers of 'The Ibis.' Mr. Bennett writes :—

"I have two skins of *Aquila* (*Nisaetus*) *morphnoides*, one in the down, the other almost able to fly, obtained from separate nests last November; this bird seldom lays more than one egg; I have occasionally found two, but such cases are rare.

"In January last I found a nest of *Gypsoictinia melano-*
sternon, in which was one young one; and amongst the remains of various animals scattered beneath the nest I counted 21 rabbit-skulls, 4 bustards, 3 iguanas, and 37 jew-lizards, besides the remains (skulls &c.) of a number of other small animals, chiefly birds."

Yours &c.,
J. H. GURNEY.

Northrepps Hall, Norwich,
July 5th, 1884.

SIRS,—In 'The Ibis' for 1868, p. 253, I suggested the specific name of *australis* for the Ostrich of South Africa,